

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-25, 27-54, and 56-93 are pending in the present application; Claims 26 and 55 having been canceled, Claims 17, 23, 24, 27-29, 46, 52, 53, and 56-58 having been amended, and Claims 88-93 having been added by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 75 and 82-87 were allowed, Claims 23, 24, 26-28, 52, 53 and 55-57 were objected to, and the remaining claims were rejected in view of the prior art. The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of certain claims and the indication that certain claims contain allowable subject matter. All previously pending claims now contain subject matter which has been indicated as being allowable or have been allowed. An explanation of the changes to the previously pending claims is set forth.

Independent Claim 17 was amended to include the subject matter of allowable Claim 26, and Claim 26 has been canceled.

Claims 23 and 24 were amended to be in independent form.

Claim 27 was amended to depend from Claim 17. As Claim 27 previously depended from Claim 26, and the subject matter of Claim 26 was included by way of amendment into independent Claim 17, Claim 27 was amend to depend from independent Claim 17.

Claim 28 was amended to be in independent form.

Claim 29 was amended to change the word "an" to --the-- because of the amendment to Claim 17.

Claim 46 was amended to include the contents of allowable Claim 55, and Claim 55 has been canceled.

Claim 56 has been amended to depend from Claim 46 as the subject matter of Claim 55 has been included in Claim 46.

Claim 57 has been amended to be in independent form.

Based on the above, all previously pending claims have either been canceled or amended to include subject matter indicated as being allowable, or were allowed.

The present amendment adds new Claims 88-92. These claims are believed to be allowable for similar reasons as Claims 82-87 were allowed.

Claim 88 is somewhat similar to Claim 82 but there are differences and omissions. There is additional material contained in Claim 88 which recites that the control program can originate from the first input/output interface and the second input/out interface. This feature of the claim is supported by the corresponding published patent application 2002/0054212-A1. Specifically, paragraph [0044] contains the sentence, "There is a section of the control program storing area 51 which stores rewritable and optional routines which may be loaded in the from the memory card 16 and the I/O card 15." Thus, the originally filed specification supports the control program coming from the memory card 16 and in through a different communication interface. The claims require that the digital camera be capable of receiving the control program through both the first and second input/output interfaces, but there is no requirement for the control program to simultaneously come from both I/O interfaces.

Independent Claim 91 is similar to added independent Claim 88 but uses means-plus-function language for the first means and second means and is to be interpreted under 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph, whereas the corresponding features of Claim 88 are written using structural language and are not to be interpreted under 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph.

Based on the above, each of the claims is allowable and accordingly, the present application should be allowed.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Kulbaski', written over a horizontal line.

James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)